Gage is first associate provost for Enrollment Management

Brent A. Gage, Ph.D., has been named to fill the newly created post of associate provost for enrollment management effective Aug. 1. Gage will have oversight of all enrollment management functions, including recruitment, admission and enrollment processes.

Gage comes to UAB from Northern Birmingham VA Medical Center to train nurses to better tend to the health-care needs of veterans and their families, all while increasing the number of qualified applicants the school can accept each year.

The department was developed collaboratively by school leaders and faculty and VA nursing leaders to link institutional missions and governance, create a pipeline for the development of VA Nurse Scholars and faculty, and develop shared clinical, educational, and leadership opportunities for students, staff and faculty.

Through this initiative, 20 additional students per year will be admitted to the school and will be identified as VA Nurse Scholars. They will have unique educational and leadership opportunities:

- All clinical experiences will be at the Birmingham VA Medical Center, except for pediatrics and obstetrics.
- A VA-based faculty member will be their advisor and mentor.
- Employment at the Birmingham VA Medical Center as student nurse technicians will be offered after successful completion of all first-semester courses.
- Projects will address quality improvement, service-learning, and research.
- The program also gives students and faculty the opportunity to learn and work in an environment that provides specialized care for our American veterans who deserve nothing less than the best care provided by highly educated nurses.

The Birmingham VA VA Academy designation looks at this joint venture as an opportunity to fulfill our mission to providing excellent nursing care for our veteran patients, says Greg Eagerton, associate director of Patient Care Service at the Birmingham VA Medical Center.

The new nursing academy designation will partner the UAB School of Nursing and the Birmingham VA Medical Center to train nurses to better tend to the health-care needs of the nation’s veterans.

New animation classes coming with time

All artists possess a unique combination of skills, and an artist is apt to use their skills in a variety of ways. The Department of Art & Art History recently added a technical component for students to consider: Time-based animation.

Christopher Lowther taught the first Introduction to Time-Based Media course this semester and will be adding additional time-based media courses this fall. “This semester we really focused on using their skills in a variety of ways.”

“This semester we really focused on using their skills in a variety of ways.”

Nursing receives coveted VA Academy designation

The UAB School of Nursing now is designated a Veterans Affairs (VA) Nursing Academy by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, joining 14 other schools of nursing nationwide.

The designation means that the UAB School of Nursing and the Birmingham VA Medical Center will work together to train compassionate, highly educated nurses to look after the health-care needs of the nation’s veterans. The partners will work to increase the recruitment and retention of baccalaureate nursing students and attract graduates into the VA nursing workforce and also develop and expand faculty expertise in the delivery of health care for veterans.

“The School of Nursing and the Birmingham VA Medical Center have a long-standing academic partnership through faculty practice, nursing research and clinical education,” says Nursing Dean Doreen Harper, Ph.D.

“This will allow us to strengthen our joint academic and service partnership to increase the number of nursing students and the number of faculty committed to enhancing the quality of care for our veterans and their families, all while increasing the number of qualified applicants the school can accept each year.”

The academy was developed collaboratively by school leaders and faculty and VA nursing leaders to link institutional missions and governance, create a pipeline for the development of VA Nurse Scholars and faculty, and develop shared clinical, educational, and leadership opportunities for students, staff and faculty.

Through this initiative, 20 additional students per year will be admitted to the school and will be identified as VA Nurse Scholars. They will have unique educational and leadership opportunities:

- All clinical experiences will be at the Birmingham VA Medical Center, except for pediatrics and obstetrics.
- A VA-based faculty member will be their advisor and mentor.
- Employment at the Birmingham VA Medical Center as student nurse technicians will be offered after successful completion of all first-semester courses.
- Four components will be added to the School of Nursing curriculum:
  - An elective course, Caring for America’s Heroes. The VHA System will be introduced.
  - The VAs simulated, computerized patient record system will be incorporated into the school’s clinical simulation laboratory.
  - Veteran-specific cultural competency training will be provided with the development of simulations related to top 10 diagnoses of patients seen at the Birmingham VA Medical Center.
  - Projects will address quality improvement, service-learning and research.

“The Birmingham VA Medical Center looks at this joint venture as an opportunity to fulfill our mission to providing excellent nursing care for our veteran patients,” says Greg Eagerton, associate director of Patient Care Service at the Birmingham VA Medical Center.

“The program also gives students and faculty the opportunity to learn and work in an environment that provides specialized care for our American veterans who deserve nothing less than the best care provided by well-trained nurses,” Eagerton said. “This truly is a demonstration of how world-class health care and world-class education partners can collaborate to enhance the nursing care of specialized patient populations.”
May 19 emergency readiness drill set

UAB will participate in a drill from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday, May 19 to evaluate the institution’s preparedness and emergency response to bioterrorism acts in the city and on campus. The exercise, directed by the Alabama Department of Public Health Center for Emergency Preparedness, will be held in Bartow Arena. Please be aware that day that this event is under way.

Memorial Day holiday is set for May 25

Monday, May 25 is an official holiday according to university policy. Although most campus operations will be suspended on this day, essential services, such as maintenance, some clinical facilities and UAB Police among others, will continue. In those departments requiring essential services, managers are required to provide adequate staffing. Therefore, it is essential to notify employees in advance of the work schedule to cover the holiday.

All full-time regular hourly and monthly paid employees are eligible for designated holiday benefits. Under university policy, eligible full-time regular hourly paid employees who are required to work on a designated holiday will be paid double time (their normal straight time rate for work plus straight time for the holiday) for no more than eight hours.

Part-time regular employees receive personal holiday benefits rather than a combination of designated and personal holidays. The accrual rates for part-time regular bi-weekly paid employees are prorated based on hours paid. Part-time regular employees should always use the personal holiday or vacation designation on their time sheets for time off due to a university recognized designated holiday.

Eligible employees of UAB Hospital, UAB Police, the UAB Call Center and other designated units receive 11 personal holidays instead of eight designated and three personal holidays. Therefore, these and other designated unit employees are not subject to the above policy and should check with their supervisors regarding staff requirements.

For clarification of the holiday policy, please contact the Office of Human Resources.

Certified educational assistance eligibility for summer, fall

Employee eligibility for educational assistance is electronically verified between HR and Students Affairs, but certification is required for eligible dependents/spouse to receive this benefit.

If an employee has not certified an eligible dependent/spouse who plans to enroll in summer classes, the employee may use the benefit if certification is completed before the Drop/Add date for that session as published in the UAB Academic Calendar. If not, educational assistance will not be applied. Full information on this program can be found at www.hr.m.uab.edu/benefits.

Benevolent Fund seeking volunteers

All UAB employees interested in serving on the UAB Benevolent Fund Council should complete and return an application by June 1. Employees serve two-year terms beginning in July.

BLAZE leadership academy accepting applications now

Apply by June 15 for the BLAZE (Building Leadership Attributes with Zeal and Excellence) leadership-development program for faculty and senior staff. This program provides opportunities for employees to enhance leadership skills, learn about UAB’s mission, vision, culture and values and network with others in similar positions across campus.

Learn healthy ways to manage stress at May 27 seminar

Do you need help managing stress?

Let the Resource Center help with the free lunch-time seminar “Healthy Ways to Manage Stress,” Wednesday, May 27 from noon to 12:45 p.m. in the UAB Hospital West Pavilion Board Room.

Women’s softball team to get a field of their own

Site preparation begins for the construction of a Women’s Fast Pitch Softball field and parking on the site of the former tennis courts and adjacent area along Sixth Avenue South between 11th and 12th streets. The women’s team has played its home games at nearby George War Park since the team was created in 2000. The new facility is expected to be operational by January 2010.

Resources online to help compete for NIH, NSF stimulus funding

In response to funding opportunities created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), UAB established 12 Stimulus Working Groups to develop resources for research, education and service efforts and to develop Web pages to assist in competing in priority funding areas.

The ARRA Funding Initiatives Web site, www.uab.edu/ARRA, is a repository for information regarding federal and the State of Alabama funding opportunities. Use a BlazerID and strong password to log in.

Additional UAB-specific information can be found at the Office of Grants and Contracts Administration site at main.uab.edu/show.asp?ArtID=119267. Every effort will be made to ensure information on these sites is current, but researchers are reminded that the definitive sites for ARRA opportunities are the funding agency sites.

As of April 29, UAB investigators had submitted 364 grant applications in response to Stimulus Package funding opportunities. Direct questions or requests for information to stimu-lus@uab.edu.
For most of us, our immune system is always ready, the body’s insurance policy of survival. It’s designed to protect us from infectious organisms and other threats that could make us sick. But for others, problems with the immune system lead to illness and infection.

Casey Weaver, M.D., professor of pathology, has been intrigued by the immune system. During the past several years, his lab has conducted groundbreaking research that has helped identify a new pathway by which the immune system responds to certain infections that also can cause autoimmune disease when uncontrolled.

For his work, Weaver has been awarded the prestigious HudsonAlpha Prize for Outstanding Innovation in Life Sciences.

“This award is an acknowledgement of the work of a number of fine young scientists I’ve had the privilege of mentoring during the past few years and reflects the quality of scientific investigation that is ongoing at UAB,” Weaver says.

Weaver’s team is interested in understanding mechanisms by which specialized immune cells called T-cells balance the need to protect against infections and cancer without turning on the body to cause immune-mediated diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, lupus and multiple sclerosis.

“The studies that this prize recognizes have helped to advance our understanding of immune protection and immune disease by contributing to the identification of a new class of T-cells called Th17 cells,” Weaver says. “By understanding how this class of T-cells develops and functions in normal and abnormal immunity, we hope to learn how to curb the destructive potential of these cells as a means to identify novel approaches to treat patients who suffer from certain types of autoimmune disease. This might also lead to new ways to harness the potential of these cells to eradicate certain types of infection and malignancies.”

LOWTHER
CONTINUED from page 1

“Graphic designers probably are the most professional of our areas in fine arts; in the past they did not have to think about motion in their work, for the past part. Now, graphic artists are expected to create or be part of the process of some of the more technical aspects,” Lowther says. “Graphic designers probably are the most professional of all our areas in fine arts; in the past they did not have to think about motion in their work, for the most part,” Lowther says. “Now, graphic artists are expected to create or be part of the process of some of the more technical aspects, like when you see artfully designed opening credits for a movie. That’s motion graphics, and graphic designers are creating these things because it deals with font and layout. Increasingly, they are expected to know video because they’re going to have to use software to create these things.”

Because of that, Lowther wants the program to engage students with continually evolving technologies and encourage an investigation of new media and visual arts.

Lowther is on the university’s film minor committee, and all of his classes are considered part of the concentration in film minor. He will begin teaching an emerging technology course, which will give students something more experimental and cutting edge. Throughout the course they will be creating experimental films.

“I hope that students really push the limits in this area,” Lowther says. “I’m working my way to getting them to create projects that are much more dynamic and larger in scope. I know I’ll get a good bit of what many people might think is commercial work, but I hope to get cuts through the work that is noncommercial — something not entirely meant for passive public consumption.”

For more on the program, visit www.uab.edu/arts/pro grams_timebased.php.

For his work in immune-system research, Casey Weaver, M.D., professor of pathology, has been awarded the prestigious HudsonAlpha Prize for Outstanding Innovation in Life Sciences.

## Rewarding innovation

The HudsonAlpha Institute, located in Huntsville, hosts a synergistic cluster of biotechnology talent — science and business professionals — that seeks to turn knowledge and ideas into commercial products and services that will improve human health and strengthen Alabama’s progressively diverse economy. HudsonAlpha has a three-fold mission of genomic research, economic development and educational outreach.

“It is a forward-looking, entrepreneurial initiative to integrate basic advances in the genomic sciences with education and industry, and I’m excited by the potential of this prize to build new ties with Alabama life scientists to enhance the recruitment and development of scientific talent in our state and to build on the legacy of health care innovation that we have inherited,” Weaver says.

The annual prize recognizes exceptional talent, dedication and discovery and is designed to increase awareness of biotechnology in Alabama and encourage students to pursue biotechnology as a field of study. The prize is awarded to a faculty member or staff scientist at one of Alabama’s six research universities — UAB, the University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Huntsville, Auburn, University of South Alabama or Alabama A&M University. It carries a cash prize of $20,000. Each research university may nominate up to two candidates who recently have effected advancements in the life sciences that provide significant, practical implications in biotechnology or biomedical. These achievements should reflect great promise for further development and benefit to mankind. Nominations recognizing efforts that are already delivering on that promise are welcome. Visit www.hudsonalpha.org/ to learn more.

Learn more about Weaver and his research at immunol ogy.dom.uab.edu/Faculty Weaver CT/htm.

May 18, 2009 UAB Reporter 3
Equipment gives nuclear med tech students advantage

Norman Bolus is a 1989 graduate of the UAB Nuclear Medicine Technology Program, and he had big dreams when he became a part of the program 15 years ago. His biggest was acquiring a Gamma camera for student use in the program’s laboratory.

Bolus didn’t have a camera when the new lab was constructed in the School of Health Professions in 2001, but he had all the necessary wiring for the camera installed in the floor and the wall anyway. Bolus even thought of having one of the doors to the lab constructed wide enough to fit a camera through.

Not one, but two donated Gamma cameras finally were brought through the lab’s extra-wide door this past fall, and now nuclear medicine technology students have an opportunity for hands-on learning.

“I was nervous that the door still wasn’t big enough, but those cameras fit through by this much,” Bolus says, holding his thumb and index finger less than a half-inch apart. “We’re so excited to have these cameras. It’s really a dream come true for me. With these cameras and our new multi-channel analyzers we have the cutting-edge tools to give our students a strong advantage when they enter the clinical setting.”

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Program has been a part of the School of Health Professions since its inception 40 years ago; it is the only one of its kind in Alabama and one of only approximately 30 baccalaureate programs in the country. Some 90 percent of UAB students have the cutting-edge tools to give our students a strong advantage when they enter the clinical setting.

The program has grown to 18 students enrolled for this fall from five students 20 years ago. Sixty students applied to be part of the program for the coming academic year.

“Pre-nuclear medicine students have to interview for one of the slots available, and we interviewed 30 for the upcoming year,” says Amy Glass, a teacher and 2002 graduate of the program.

“Our field is growing, and the good news is we’re getting great students who have a desire for nuclear medicine, a desire to learn and a desire to help patients.”

The role of the technologist

Nuclear medicine uses unique, safe and painless techniques both to image the body and treat disease. A nuclear medicine technologist uses radioactive drugs to obtain information that will lead to disease diagnosis and monitoring therapy.

Hospital staff technologists operate cameras that detect and map the radioactive drug in a patient’s body to create diagnostic images. After explaining test procedures to patients, technologists prepare a dosage of the radiopharmaceutical and administer it by mouth, injection, inhalation or other means. They position patients and start a gamma scintillation camera, or scanner, which creates images of the distribution of a radiopharmaceutical as it localizes in, and emits signals from, the patient’s body. The images are produced on a computer screen or on film for a physician to interpret.

Other career opportunities for nuclear medicine technologists include state inspectors, sales representatives for pharmaceutical companies, health physicists, research assistants, hospital radiation-safety officers and educators.

On the forefront

Nuclear medicine technologists are seeing their roles evolve as technology continues to transform the industry.

Fusion imaging is becoming more prevalent, particularly in the area of X-ray and PET/CT scans. Eventually, Bolus says fusion imaging with magnetic resonance imaging — or PET/MR — will become prominent.

“Nuclear medicine technologists are taking their equipment and coupling it with other modalities and overlaying the images on top of one on the other,” Bolus says.

“Traditionally in nuclear medicine we’re able to see physiology really well, but we’re not very good at seeing anatomy. Computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging are very good at seeing anatomy, but they’re not very good at seeing physiology. So fusion imaging really gives you the best of both and enables the physician to interpret what’s going on in the patient much easier.”

Medicine with a personal touch

Producing the best high-quality image is a primary responsibility of a nuclear medicine tech, and it is a focus for students learning in the program; but learning the role that they play in a patient’s life also is important.

Bolus wants the students to be mindful of that.

“It’s medicine that touches individuals,” he says. “I’d like to think we’re a part of that whole process of fostering patient care along with the technical proficiency.”

Visit www.uab.edu/NMTProgram for more on the program.
New tear research focused on contact lens benefits, risks

Rodruck Fullard, O.D., has been studying tears since 1983, and there was a time people wondered why.

“People used to say to me, ‘You’re studying tears? What in the world?’ They’re like a salt-water solution. But nothing could be further from the truth,” says the associate professor in Vision Sciences. “Tears are a very, very complex secretion. We learn more about tears every day, and there is much we do not know.”

Lucy Kehinde, a doctoral student in the Vision Sciences graduate program, is the lead researcher on a tears project that looks at the impact contact lens use has on general eye health. Kehinde is working in Fullard’s lab where she is collecting tears from patients to study the biological changes in the eye. These changes can be measured through minor fluctuations in the level of inflammatory proteins called cytokines, which are present in the tear film. Cytokines are strong indicators of overall eye health, especially in contact lens wearers.

“Many studies have been done as to why some patients will develop infections or inflammations or allergies to the contact,” Fullard says. “Lucy’s looking at a very specific aspect of contact lens wear to determine the difference in these inflammatory biomarkers if you take your lenses out every night versus leaving them in continuously for 30 days. That’s become very common these days; extended-wear lenses require less maintenance and are very convenient. But many patients pay a price. The eyes are more likely to be inflamed and more likely to develop problems and intolerance to contact lenses.”

Patients wear lenses that are approved for 30 days of continuous wear. They are instructed to leave one lens in for 30 days and the lens in the other eye is removed daily. The patient comes to the clinic at UAB Eye Care to collect their tears for Kehinde three or four times during the 30 days.

Kehinde then looks for the difference in the biomarkers or to see if the eye that has extended-wear lenses is showing more inflammatory markers.

“The levels of concentration in the tears will change depending on the health of the eye,” Kehinde says. “Certain diseases have elevated levels of certain cytokines, and others will have decreased levels. The goal of this study is to understand what happens to these cytokines with contact lens wear.”

Collecting the tears

Kehinde presented her initial research findings at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology annual meeting May 3-7 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The results included 80 volunteers who collected their tears in ultra-thin glass tubes smaller than a coffee stirrer. The participants were trained to hold the collection end of the tube very close to the ocular surface without touching the eye. The tears collected had to be non-stimulated since cytokine levels are skewed by stimulated or emotional tears.

“Lucy’s collecting tears that are stimulated normally,” Fullard says. “These tears have a very slow turnover rate. Without this basal secretion you wouldn’t be able to see anything but shapes or blurry outlines. Non-stimulated tears form that nice, smooth surface over the eye to help us see clearly.”

By collecting these tears we know as we go from one sample to the next what we’re getting from the surface of the eye, and what we’re getting from the main lacrimal gland that secretes tears when we peel onions, for example.”

Kehinde’s research is helping to narrow down the cytokine markers important to eye-disease prevention and treatment. “We may be able to use this data to develop new diagnostic tools that would identify good candidates for extended-wear lenses or find those who are better suited for daily wear lenses,” she says.

Next research step

Fullard says Kehinde’s study is laying the groundwork for a future study on dry-eye patients.

The ultimate goal is to find a better set of biomarkers than are currently available. Fullard says the upcoming study will use two different but potent treatment methods to see if one is more therapeutic or shows a bigger change in the inflammatory biomarkers.

“If one of the treatments is good we expect the biomarkers to go down substantially,” Fullard says.

Soon, Fullard also will begin a study collecting cells from the surface of the white part of the eye and looking at the RNA. He hopes to match it to the human genome and see all of the biomarkers that are being expressed on the surface of the eye.

“If we actually see this at the genetic level, we can use chips to sequence the entire human genome,” Fullard says. “That has so much potential because we can look at the expression of all of these genes and see what changes after treatment.”

Visit main.uab.edu/Sites/MediaRelations/articles/62728 to see more on Kehinde’s tears research.

GAGE

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Illinois University (NIU), for which he has been assistant vice provost for enroll-
ment services since 2006. At NIU, Gage oversees the offices of admissions, finan-
cial aid, registration and records, testing services and scholarships. He is credited with transforming recruitment processes to include multiple levels of communi-
cation with potential students. Gage has been active in a variety of media. He was a key player in the facilitation of a retention taskforce and was instrumental in develop-
ing new branding and marketing strat-
egies. He also worked very closely with the offices of scholarship and financial aid to ensure that federal, state and institu-
tional dollars were directed to achieve recruitment and retention goals.

“Dr. Gage is at the forefront of the ever-
evolving profession of student recruit-
ment,” said UAB Provost Eli Capilouto. “His appointment as our first associate provost for enrollment management reflects our ongoing commitment to provide the best services to our current students and to continue to recruit the highly motivated and diverse individuals who have traditionally made up our stu-
dent body.”

School of Business Dean David Klock, Ph.D., who chaired the position search committee, echoed Capilouto’s statement, noting that Gage has extensive experi-
ence and a track record of success in all aspects of enrollment services, including market/financial aid, registration and statistical analysis.

“Brent Gage brings to UAB exceptional experience in enrollment management,” Klock said. “He has demonstrated the professional skills that are critical to recruiting and retaining capable and well-rounded students who are essential to UAB’s mission and to community and regional economic growth.”

“My family and I are very excited about the opportunities at a dynamic institu-
tion such as UAB,” Gage said. “After meeting with President Carol Garrison, Provost Capilouto, the faculty and staff, it became clear that UAB is an institution on a trajectory for even greater success, and I look forward to being a part of that process.”

Before joining NIU, Gage was associate dean of undergraduate admissions at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2000-
2006). Prior to that, he was first admis-

Gage earned his bachelor of science degree in organizational communication from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, his master of science in education from Eastern Illinois University and his doc-
torate in educational leadership, admin-
istration and foundations at Indiana State University. He is a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO) and an editorial reviewer for Enrollment Management Journal.

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May 4, 2009
Korf selected to lead American College of Medical Genetics

Bruce Korf, M.D., Ph.D., is a nationally recognized leader in human genetics and internationally regarded as a leading authority in the neurodevelopmental disorder neurofibromatosis — genetic disorders of the nervous system that primarily affect the development and growth of nerve-cell tissues.

Korf, the Wayne H. and Sara Crews Finley Professor of Medical Genetics and chair of the Department of Genetics, recently began a two-year term as president of The American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG). The ACMG advances the practice of medical genetics by providing education, resources and a voice for more than 1,400 biochemical, clinical, cytogenetic, medical and molecular geneticists, genetic counselors and other health-care professionals committed to the practice of medical genetics.

Korf spoke to the UAB Reporter about his new position as president of the ACMG. UAB’s role in genetics research and how the Human Genome Project has transformed genetics research.

Q. How has the completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003 changed the face of genetics research?

A. Advances in human genetics — especially the sequencing of the genome — have put powerful new tools in the hands of geneticists. One major outcome is that the focus of genetics research has expanded from rare disorders due to changes in individual genes to more common conditions due to a complex interplay of multiple genes and environmental factors. This offers the promise of new approaches to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of both rare and common disorders and extends the reach of genetics into day-to-day medical practice.

Q. Is there a greater likelihood that a cure for conditions such as cancer, SARS or obesity will now be found?

A. We are a long way from cures for many of these common disorders, but understanding the genetic contributions is a major step forward. From this research we are formulating an understanding of the biological mechanisms of disease. This, in turn, suggests new avenues for treatment, whether by designing new drug therapies or treatments involving gene replacement or stem cell-based approaches.

Q. How is power of genomics being used to improve health?

A. There are many examples in the areas of prevention, diagnosis and treatment. A major new development in prevention is the standardization of the panel of tests offered for screening newborns for inborn errors of metabolism. In the area of diagnosis, there are now genetic tests for more than a thousand disorders, and new technologies now permit whole genome analysis for deletions or duplications of DNA. In treatment, we are seeing new approaches to enzyme replacement and clinical trials of new medications for genetic disorders. Testing for genetic variation in drug metabolism to customize dosage of a medication to individual patterns of metabolism also is becoming routine in some cases.

Q. What obstacles have been created as a result of the Human Genome Project?

A. Genetic studies are perceived by many to be touching on sensitive issues, including relationships within a family. It also raises concerns about new forms of discrimination based on genetic make-up. Investigators and clinicians need to be aware of these issues and to take care to preserve individual rights and privacy. Federal legislation prohibits discrimination in health-insurance coverage and employment based on genetic testing or family history. It is hoped that this, together with state laws, will go a long way toward reassuring the public about genetic research and testing.

Q. What role does the ACMG play in guiding public perception and policy?

A. The American College of Medical Genetics has an active education and public affairs program that includes issuing policy and position statements on many issues of national importance. An example is a statement on direct-to-consumer genetic testing that was issued in the past year in response to a growing number of companies that offer such testing. The statement emphasized the importance of involving a qualified health professional in the ordering and interpretation of genetic tests. Genetics is a very rapidly moving field, and the ACMG can play a major role in helping to sort out the claims that are appearing in the press and in advertisements.

Q. How does the ACMG help treat, prevent genetic diseases?

A. One major initiative in recent years has been expansion and standardization of the newborn screening panel. Before this, newborns in some states were screened for disorders and provided treatment that avoided a devastating outcome; however, those born in other states were not diagnosed until severe neurological damage was done. This no longer is the case, thanks, in large part, to efforts of the ACMG. We are now organizing, with federal grant support, a network of clinical and translational research centers around the country for these and other genetic disorders that will increase the rate of development and testing of new approaches and make them more accessible. We also issue practice guidelines that will help ensure the highest quality of care for individuals who have or are at risk for genetic disorders.

Q. What are your goals for the ACMG during your tenure?

A. I have three major goals. One is to increase the engagement of ACMG members, to get them involved, for example, in the formulation of practice guidelines and policy statements. We recently have revised the governance procedures, and that should make it easier for members to participate in its committees.

Second, increase the training pipeline. Given the exciting advances in genetic and genomic research, the workforce in genetics is not as large as it needs to be. We will be working at multiple levels, including medical schools and residency programs, to encourage more people to join the field and to educate our medical colleagues about when and how to use genetic resources in patient care. Third, we will increase our advocacy activities to promote the integration of genetics into medical practice.

Q. What unique areas of genetic research are UAB researchers pursuing?

A. Researchers at UAB, both in Genetics and in other schools and departments, are engaged in genetic research at multiple levels. This includes efforts to discover genes involved in rare and common disorders and to study how these genes interact with one another and with the environment to influence risk of disease.

There also are efforts under way to develop and test new diagnostic approaches and treatment strategies. Our goal is to develop and deploy genetic approaches that will help UAB be a leader in the new era of personalized medicine.
Healthy girls 10-17 years old needed for a research study of an investigational herpes vaccine (HSV-2) to assess the vaccine’s ability to prevent genital herpes (herpes labialis or genital herpes), you may qualify. Compensated, 859-9193.

Women

Are you a pregnant woman at increased risk for breast cancer? You may be eligible for a research study to evaluate a breast cancer prevention study. Jena Fau 9-18.

Healthy women 19-45 who are HIV-negative and want to make a difference in the treatment and prevention of HIV-positive women and children, volunteers are needed for a study that is testing two phases of the menstrual cycle. Participants will receive a medical exam and a series of blood tests. (2) 12-hour clinic visits at UAB. Jenny 4-2866. Compensated up to $400.

Study of healthy brain function in women with multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injury for a brain imaging study of decision-making. Call 934-8586 and ask about the MRI session. Compensation. 4-1776/4-1777/877-496-4673.

Healthy women 55 or older in good physical health & diagnosed with mild-moderate Alzheimer’s disease. Compensation. 50-100. Dr. Rajesh Kana 996-9368.

Healthy women 55 or older in good physical health & diagnosed with mild-moderate Alzheimer’s disease. Compensation. 50-100. Dr. Rajesh Kana 996-9368.

Men

Do you or someone you know have dyslexia? The UAB Center for Nursing Research has developed a Web site that addresses the issues faced by persons with CF. Visit the site for information regarding CF and also take part in a new on-line research study. Patrick hub. 2-6040.

Healthy men age 19-95 who are old and frail and have brain imaging. Participants will be compensated $50. Sandra 996-2689/Dana 996-4015.

Are you a man or woman age 19 or older with chronic back pain? Those interested in participating in a study to map brain activity while performing decision-making tasks, vision evaluation, blood pressure checks, and lab tests and ECG at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

Men & women

Do you or someone you know have a female age 19 or older with chronic osteoporosis? This is a 32-week study that requires (3) two-night hospital stays. Compensation. $300. Jennifer 4-2696.

Healthy men 19-65 are needed for a study to evaluate rheumatoid arthritis treatment. The study involves a 4-8 week placebo-controlled study at UAB. Compensation $500. Jennifer 4-2696.

Healthy women age 19-65 are needed for a study involving training on cognitive and/or physical exercise. May be eligible to participate, free of charge. Study lasts 6 weeks. Dr. Rajesh Kana 996-9368.
Classifieds

Appliances & Electronics
10 Mo Olympics FE30 digital camera: 2 weeks old, it was perfect, all condition, manuals, cases, software included, pick up at end of May. fleetblonde@uab.edu

Kerosene heater, 35,000 BTU, tank, 16 gal tank, $40; showroom stock, $22; softpad sofa, full, blue, $75; Soap Van, 98; Kneading chair, $35, 951-2800.

Dishwashers: used 2 for: new GE quiet, $300, 1 year warranty; $395, 230-V, stainless steel, $45; antique wooden BR suite, good condition, $400.00, please see 524-6823/568-5412.

Automobiles
1989 Honda Civic LX, 5-spd manual, silver, 155,000 mi, $9800/obo. 383-6153.

1989 Toyota Camry, 4-dr, 2.2L 4-cyl, 190,000 mi, good condition, asking $3900. 135-4145. 246-7126.

Yahoo! Auctions les, 150,000 mi, automatic, 4-cyl, Bluebird room book & chair, 4WD. Price negotiable, last time selling, $480. 470-5903.

1990 Honda Civic EX, white, 4-dr, automatic, 174,000 mi, sunset, except gas mileage, $2300/obo. 930-5517.

1990 Toyota Camry, 5-spd, automatic, very good condition, only 58,000 mi, incredible gas mileage, 30-40 mpg city/12,000 under the hub, for sale, $11000. 801-278-4442.

1990 Ford Taurus SEL IV, 4-dr, V-6, 98,800 mi, loaded, sunroof, leather seats, well kept, well maintained, $5500. 913-432-4824/222.

1995 Nissan Altima 2.5, 4-dr, 83,000 mi, all power, lovely condition, new tires, 99000/o with warranty, $9900/o. 973-481-5248/2063.uab.edu.

1973 Dodge Charger, 7000, 4-dr, black, automatic, manual trans, nice, original, custom tires, $2500. 418-1600/256-249-0448.

1994 Honda Accord, 3-spd, auto, perfect condition, city, highway miles, nice tires, brown leather, $14995. 942-4600.

1994 ’89 honda civic lX, 4-dr, forest green, 184,000 mi, $2800/obo. 383-6153.

2004 Mazda CX-9, 26,950 mi, sunroof, leather, great condition, asking $28,900. 378-0500/ xx24@uab.edu.

Miscellaneous
500 Westerleigh, 16th “C”, $60,000, 6 BR, 3 BA, 3300 sf, ready for a good home, $4600. 625-5214.

Sofa/love seat, grey, nice, grivelwyne lane, $500, reasonable. 426-9544.

Couch and love seat, with oak trim, oak bed-room, queen mattress set, recliner, upholstered chair. 253-7351.

Dark hardwood dining room table, round, 52” diameter, 4 chairs/center leaf, perfect condition, virtually new, must sell, $1500. 4-7114.

For Sale
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Available
1989 Honda Civic SE 3spn automatic, $4200, in good condition. 346-3845.

1982 Honda Accord, 105,000 mi, AC, $2500. 426-8039.

1989 Nissan Altima, 4-dr, auto, manual trans, nice, 58,000 miles, original tires, $2500. 418-1600.

1990 Toyota Camry, $13,000, 81,000 mi, good condition, asking $9000. 383-6153.

1994 Honda Accord, 3-spd, auto, perfect condition, $15,000. 942-4600.

1994 ’89 honda civic lX, 4-dr, forest green, 184,000 mi, $2800/obo. 383-6153.

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